

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above identified application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by these amendments, as support therefor is found throughout the specification and drawings.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings because Figures 12a, 17, 20 and 21 required legends identifying them as prior art. In response thereto, Figures 12a, 17, 20 and 21 have been amended to include "prior art" legends as shown in the attached copy marked in permanent red ink. Accordingly, formal drawings are submitted herewith and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings were also objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention as specified by the claims. In particular, it is believed that certain features of Claim 10 (namely one of the two main discharging electrodes and the partial discharging electrode are disposed in the second region) were indicated as not shown in the figures. It is respectfully submitted that Figure 13 illustrates the identified features of the main discharging electrode 1301y being provided in an effective display area, and the main discharging electrode 1301x and partial discharging electrode 1301z being provided in a region not corresponding to the effective display area. Support for these features in Figure 13 can be found, among other places, on page 69, lines 1-6 and page 74, lines 8-15 of the subject. Consequently, each of the claimed features is believed to be disclosed in the figures and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,461,397 to Zhang et al. In view of the amendments herein, the Examiner's grounds for rejection are herewith traversed, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Zhang et al. merely teach independent discharge control of gas discharge tunnels with time sequential color mixing to produce color images without the use of a

color filter. Zhang et al. disclose introducing an amount of priming charged particles to reduce the ignition voltage applied to the discharge electrodes and increase starting reliability s(see col. 5, lines 3-8). Zhang et al. teach an illumination device that is repeatedly turned off and restarted.

In contrast, amended Claim 1 recites an illumination control device for illuminating a light modulation information display device with light including at least one illumination device for irradiating light which is generated through discharging and a driving waveform generation section for controlling the light which is irradiated from the at least one illumination device to the light modulation information display device. The light modulation information display device is operable so as to have a first period and a second period during which an image is displayed. During the first period, the driving waveform generation section applies a first voltage to the at least one illumination device, the first voltage causing the at least one illumination device to be turned entirely-ON and during the second period, the driving waveform generation section applies a second voltage to at least a portion of the at least one illumination device wherein the second voltage is different from the first voltage. Consequently, the at least one illumination device is not completely turned off. This reduces excessive voltage components which may be present at the beginning of the discharging and controls the number of electrons sputtered resulting in improved life characteristics. Zhang et al. do not disclose or suggest such a structural configuration. Accordingly, Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom distinguishes the subject invention from Zhang et al. and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to Claim 10, Zhang et al. disclose a main and long discharge path between a cathode 322 and an anode 321. A shorter auxiliary pilot discharge path extends between pilot discharge electrodes 325 and the cathode 322 (see col. 9, lines 10-14).

In contrast, Claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, a light modulation information display device including a light modulation information display section and an illumination control device comprising at least one illumination device having two main discharging electrodes and a partial discharging electrode, wherein light provided from the at least one illumination device is irradiated to the light modulation information display section. Zhang et al. do not disclose or suggest such a structural configuration.

Although the length of the discharge paths may vary in Zhang et al., Zhang et al. do not teach the pilot discharge electrodes 325 being partially discharging. Accordingly, Claim 10 and each of the claims depending therefrom distinguish the subject invention from Zhang et al. and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In accordance with the 37 C.F.R. §1.121, the amended claims are appended hereto in a version which indicates the amendments. Any additional fees or overpayments due as a result of filing the present paper may be applied to Deposit Account No. 04-1105. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now remaining in this application are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this amendment, the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth herein below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figures 12a, 17, 20 and 21 of the drawings as shown in red on the enclosed copy. These drawing changes have also been transmitted to the official draftsperson concurrently herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

--1. (Amended) An illumination control device for illuminating a[n] light modulation information display device with light, comprising:

at least one illumination device for irradiating light which is generated through discharging; and

a driving waveform generation section for controlling the light which is irradiated from the at least one illumination device to the light modulation information display device,

wherein:

the light modulation information display device is operable so as to have a first period and a second period during which an image is displayed;

during the first period, the driving waveform generation section applies a first voltage to the at least one illumination device, the first voltage causing the at least one illumination device to be turned entirely-ON; and

during the second period, the driving waveform generation section applies a second voltage to at least a portion of the at least one illumination device, wherein the second voltage is different from the first voltage.--